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HEADQUARTERS
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE CENTER
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

FWCBD 400.112

18 Jan 1955SUBJECT: Burial Material

TO: Commanding Officer
77th Special Forces Group Airborne
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

1. Attached herewith is a sample of burial cloth assumed suitable for caching material and equipment. The Military Characteristics of this sample are not available here at the board, but Lt. Colonel Kibling, OCPW, R&D Section has stated that 20,000 sq. yds have been stocked at a cost of \$4.00 per yd.

2. In order to determine the feasibility of future procurement and/or development, it is requested that the attached questionnaire be accomplished by the most experienced personnel of the following categories:

- a. Communications
- b. Demolitions
- c. Weapons
- d. Medical
- e. FA Team Leaders
- f. FB Team Leaders
- g. FC Team Leaders
- h. FD Team Leaders

Number

5
5
5
5
5
3
1
1

Ten additional questionnaires are inclosed to be accomplished at the discretion of the Group Commander.

3. It is further requested that the questionnaires be completed and returned to the Psychological Warfare Board, Attn: S. F. Section, by 10 February 1955. A final draft report will be submitted to your headquarters for comment and/or concurrence.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL RAOFF:
ORIGINAL CL BY 2739
☐ DECL ☒ REVW ON 17 JUN 55 2010
EXT BYND 6 YRS BY 10 SAME

1. REASON 3 d (3)
Questionnaire (11)

REC <u>1</u>	REV DATE <u>27 JUNE 55</u>	BY <u>057447</u>
ORIG COMP <u>201</u>	OPI <u>56</u>	TYPE <u>02</u>
ORIG CLASS <u>M</u>	PAGES <u>6</u>	REV CLASS <u>8</u>
JUST <u>2</u>	NEXT REV <u>2070</u>	AUTHI HR <u>10-2</u>

s/t/ROY B. HOSKINS
Lt. Col. AGC
Adjutant

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QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. The Research and Development Division, OCPW, has submitted to the Special Forces Section, Psychological Warfare Board a sample of Burial Cloth for consideration as a suitable mean of preparing material and equipment for caching. The Military Characteristics for the sample are not available and this particular sample may not be ultimate desired. The answers to the questions in par. 2 should aid in determining the feasibility of further development and procurement.

2. It is requested that you answer the questions independent of other personnel who are likewise accomplishing this questionnaire. This is not meant to prevent you from seeking advice from other who are not so engaged. Read though all the questions before answering "a" below. Obviously, if you conclude there is not requirement you could not answer the remaining questions without contradiction. (Where applicable place a circle around your answer)

a. Do you feel a requirement exists for
Burial Cloth?

YesNo

b. Organizational Concept:

(1) Should the burial cloth be issued to teams prior to an operation for the preparation of team equipment or supplies?

YesNo

(2) Should burial cloth be issued to teams prior to infiltration for use after reaching the objective area?

YesNo

c. Operational Concept:

(1) Should all equipment or material (where practicable) be prepackaged with the use of burial cloth during resupply operations?

YesNo

(2) In your particular specialty, list the most important equipment or material in which the use of burial cloth would be appropriate.

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- (3) Would you prefer rigid type containers capable of being hermetically sealed rather than the use of burial cloth to preserve supplies in a cache? Yes No
- (4) Would you prefer the various items to be packaged individually or in bulk, i. e. one automatic pistol per package or 10, 20 or 50 pistols per package? Individual Bulk

d. Durability and Reliability

- (1) What would you recommend as the optimum protective capability of burial cloth as far as time is considered?

(a) When buried underground?

3 Months 6 Months 1 Year 2 Years

(b) When submerged under water?

2 Weeks 1 Month 2 Months 6 Months

- (2) Would you prefer that the burial cloth be able to withstand more rugged handling than that sustained during a para-drop? Yes No

e. Add any additional comments that you feel appropriate.

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(18 January 1955)

SUBJECT: Burial Material

HEADQUARTERS 77th SPECIAL FORCES GROUP AIRBORNE, Ft Bragg, N. C. 28 Feb 55

TO: Commanding Officer, The Psychological Warfare Center, Ft Bragg, N. C.

1. In compliance with ltr, PWCED 400.112, Subject: "Burial Material", dated 18 Jan 55, the following information is submitted:

a. Questionnaires forwarded with above mentioned letter were distributed and returned as requested. A recompilation of the answers obtained are as follows:

b. Organizational concept.

ANSWER

YES	NO
23	4

(1) Does a requirement exist for Burial Cloth?

(2) Should burial cloth be issued to teams prior to an operation for the preparation of team equipment?

17 10

(3) Should burial cloth be issued to teams prior to infiltration for use after reaching the objective area?

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c. Operational concept.

(1) Should all equipment or material (where practicable) be prepacked with use of burial cloth during resupply operations?

23 3

(2) In your particular specialty list the most important equipment or material in which the use of burial cloth would be appropriate?

NOTE: In answer to these questions the majority of questionnaires were in agreement in the following equipment:

(a) Communication equipment.

(b) Weapons and ammunition.

(c) Demolitions and related equipment.

(d) Medical supplies and instruments.

(3) Would you prefer rigid type containers capable of being hermetically sealed rather than the use of burial cloth to preserve supplies in a cache.

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- (4) Would you prefer the various items to INDIVIDUAL BULK
be packaged individually or in bulk;
i.e., one automatic pistol per package,
or 10, 20 or 50 pistols per package?

d. Durability and reliability.

- (1) What would you recommend as the optimum protective capability of burial cloth as far as time is considered?

- (a) When underground.

$\frac{3 \text{ mos}}{6}$	$\frac{6 \text{ mos}}{6}$	$\frac{1 \text{ yr}}{12}$	$\frac{2 \text{ yrs}}{3}$
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- (b) When submerged under water.

$\frac{2 \text{ Wks}}{2}$	$\frac{1 \text{ mo}}{6}$	$\frac{2 \text{ mos}}{5}$	$\frac{6 \text{ mos}}{11}$
---------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

- | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|
| (2) Would you prefer that burial cloth be | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
| able to withstand more rugged handling | | |
| than that sustained during a paradrop? | 20 | 7 |

2. In the summary it may be concluded that:

a. A definite need does exist for a type of burial cloth, although it is felt that burial cloth of the type attached as a sample is too heavy, stiff and possibly too expensive for utilization by Special Forces type units.

b. In answer to question 2b(1) and (2) subsequent questioning of S. F. personnel disclosed that in most part, equipment taken into the operational area in the initial phases of an operation would not require special preservation as it would be used almost immediately upon landing, but that some type of preservation material could be carried with the team in the event that equipment initially carried would have to be cached.

c. It was found that the majority of personnel were in agreement that all equipment requiring additional protective material be packaged in burial cloth in bulk lots not to exceed 40 pounds to allow ease in handling.

d. It is generally agreed that the minimum protective capability for packaging equipment and supplies underground was 1 year and 6 months for equipment to be submerged in water.

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3. Recommendations:

a. It is recommended that attempts be made to procure a light weight burial material preferably of a plastic to afford maximum durability, lightness of various sizes which would afford ease in sealing and reuse. Both for the repackaging and possible use as food containers, and storage of water.

4. Suspense date of basic communication was verbally extended by Major Jones, Special Forces Member, PsyWar Board.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

s/t/GUSTAV J GILLERT JR
Captain, Infantry
Adjutant

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